

Serial Number 10/766616
Examiner Nelson, AU 3379
Amendment dated April 10, 2007.

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Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A stackable bin system for use with a forklift having first and second forks, comprising:

first and second cargo bins, each comprising:

first and second vertical walls having first and second ends joined by first and second end walls, respectively, to form a bin having an inner width and opposing top and bottom edges;

an integrated floor having upper and lower surfaces joining said first and second vertical walls and said first and second end walls to form a bin holding area having an upper edge, a length, and a width;

a rigid framework frame forming said edges of said bin, said framework defining the periphery of said first and second vertical walls and said first and second end walls, said framework further comprising vertical support members having first and second ends, said first end of said vertical support members affixed to said bottom edge, said second end of said vertical support members engaging said top edge, and first and second stringers horizontally aligned and situated between said opposing bottom edges, so as to reinforce said floor;

first and second aligned braces situated between said first and second stringers to reinforce said first and second stringers and said floor;

first and second skids engaged to said lower surface of said floor, said skids formed to space said lower surface of said floor from a support surface so as to allow first

and second forks from a forklift to pass therebetween, each of said skids having first and second ends and a length therebetween;

said skids of said first cargo bin having a recess (26) formed at each of said first and second ends, respectively, each recess defining an inner edge (27, 27') formed to rest within the bin holding area of said second cargo bin when stacked thereupon, and each said recess formed to interface with said upper edge of said second cargo bin when stacked thereupon, so as to resist sliding or tilting.

2. (Previously amended) The cargo bins of claim 1, wherein said frame is formed of tubing.

3. (Currently amended): The cargo bins of claim 2, wherein said tubing is has a square cross-section.

4. (Previously amended) The cargo bins of claim 3, wherein said first and second vertical walls and said first and second end walls form first, second, third and fourth corners, and wherein there is provided first, second, third and fourth padeyes emanating from said first, second, third and fourth corners, respectively, said pad eyes situated in the vicinity of, but below said upper edge of each of said bins.

5. (Currently amended) The cargo bins of claim 4, wherein there is further provided a layer of heavy ~~guage~~ gauge expanded metal (7) situated between said vertical support members (12) to form said first vertical wall.

6. (Withdrawn) A bin dumping system, comprising:

a bin comprising a floor, first and second side walls, and first and second end walls defining an enclosure having an underside, said bin having a width and a vertical axis defining a medially balanced weight load, said vertical axis further defining first and second vertical sections of said cargo bin, said first and second side walls of said cargo bin having

formed therethrough a first lifting interface for selectively receiving a lifting member through said first vertical section of said cargo bin;

a stinger unit comprising:

a stinger comprising an elongated, generally horizontally situated lifting member having first and second ends and a length, said stinger formed to engage said first lifting interface; and

a engagement interface engaged to said first end of said stinger;

whereby said engagement interface is configured to engage a lifting device, so as to lift and maneuver said stinger to facilitate sliding engagement of said stinger with said first lifting interface, so as to allow the positioning of said cargo bin above a dump bin; and

whereby when said engagement interface may be lowered so as to allow said cargo bin to engage the dump bin and withdraw from the underside of said cargo bin whilst said stinger continues to engage said first lifting interface, causing an imbalance in the positioning of said first lifting interface on said cargo bin so as to facilitate the pivoting of said cargo bin about said stinger, causing said cargo bin to dump any contents therein into said dump bin.

7. (Withdrawn) The bin dumping system of Claim 6, wherein said cargo bin further comprises a second engagement interface for selectively receiving said stinger through said second vertical section of said cargo bin in the vicinity of said floor of said cargo bin, whereby upon said cargo bin having been placed upon the ground in an inverted position, and where upon said stinger having been slidingly positioned in said second lifting interface and lifted by a forklift, an imbalance in the positioning of said second lifting interface on said cargo bin facilitates the pivoting of said cargo bin via said second lifting interface about said stinger so as to allow an operator of the forklift to upright said cargo bin.

8. (Currently amended) A cargo bin, comprising:

first and second vertical walls having first and second ends joined by first and second end walls, respectively, to form a bin having an inner width and opposing top and bottom edges;

an integrated floor having upper and lower surfaces joining said first and second vertical walls and said first and second end walls to form a bin holding area having an upper edge, a length, and a width;

a rigid framework frame forming said edges of said bin, said framework defining the periphery of said first and second vertical walls and said end walls, said framework further comprising vertical support members having first and second ends, said first end of said vertical support members affixed to said bottom edge, said second end of said vertical support members engaging said top edge, and first and second stringers horizontally aligned and situated between said opposing bottom edges, so as to reinforce said floor;

first and second aligned braces situated between said first and second stringers to reinforce said first and second stringers and said floor;

~~a integrated floor having upper and lower surfaces joining said first and second vertical walls and said first and second end walls to form a bin holding area having an upper edge, a length, and a width.~~

first and second skids engaged to said lower surface of said floor, said skids formed to space said lower surface of said floor from a support surface so as to allow first and second forks from a forklift to pass therebetween, each of said skids having first and second ends and a length therebetween;

each of said first and second skids having a recess formed at each of said first and second ends, respectively, each recess formed to interface with upper edges of a second cargo bin, each recess also defining an inner edge to rest within a bin holding area of said second cargo bin when stacked thereupon, so as to resist sliding or tilting.

9. (Currently amended) The cargo bin of claim 8, ~~wherein there is further provided a template formed to engage the cargo bin to convert same into a specialized carrier, said template comprising a base configured to engage said floor, the base supporting a rack engaging and supporting an item in a contained and secure fashion~~ wherein said first and second vertical walls and said first and second end walls form first, second, third and fourth corners, and wherein there is provided first, second, third and fourth padeyes emanating from said first, second, third and fourth corners, respectively, said pad eyes situated in the vicinity of, but below said upper edge of each of said bins.

10. (Currently amended) The cargo bin of claim 8, wherein ~~said first and second vertical walls and said first and second end walls having an upper edge, and wherein there is further provided an upper template comprising a series of sleeve members having peripheries, said sleeve members joined at said peripheries along a common plane and framed by a frame, said frame engaging said upper edge of said first and second vertical walls and said first and second end walls~~ wherein there is further provided a layer of heavy gauge expanded metal (7) situated between said vertical support members (12) to form said first vertical wall.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~stackable~~ cargo bin of claim 10, wherein ~~there is further provided a base component comprising a plurality of sleeve members having peripheries aligned on a plane, said sleeve members joined at said peripheries, said sleeve members of said base component situated in axial alignment with said sleeve members of said upper template, so as to facilitate the engagement and support of items through the aligned sleeve members forming the upper template and the base component, so as to facilitate secure storage and transport~~ wherein said frame is formed of tubing having a square cross-section.